

The Impact of Natural Disasters on Children's Health

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Abstract

The Gulf Coast represents an extremely vulnerable area to disasters that will only increase in intensity and frequency due to climate change. Exposure to these disasters has long-lasting physical and mental impacts on residents in the region. Children represent a vulnerable population that is commonly overlooked in disaster research. This underrepresentation in research is a disservice to our children as they are at higher risk to the negative effects of disasters yet rely on the adults in their lives and policymakers to ensure their safety and health of the environment they will come to inherit. Therefore, I aim to understand the impacts of disasters on children's mental health to better understand the specialized needs of children facing disasters.